



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

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## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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T – 28 – 03

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2003

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### **\$400,000 Settlement Reached with Helena Chemical Company**

Berkeley --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced a \$400,000 settlement with Helena Chemical Company, which manufactures and distributes agricultural products nationally, for hazardous waste violations at three of its California facilities. The three facilities are located at 101 West Carey Road in Brawley in Imperial County, 10821 W.15<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Blythe in Riverside County, and on Highway 32 West and Transit 86 in Chico in Butte County.

Under terms of the settlement, which was lodged September 15, 2003 in Sacramento Superior Court by the California Attorney General's Office, Helena Chemical will pay a civil penalty of \$320,000 and will reimburse DTSC \$80,000 in administrative costs. A copy of the consent judgment, which formalizes the settlement, is available on the DTSC Web site at [www.DTSC.ca.gov](http://www.DTSC.ca.gov).

The settlement stems from operational violations revealed during inspections by DTSC of the three Helena facilities in October 2001. DTSC inspectors noted the following violations:

- Storing numerous drums of hazardous waste without a permit at both the Brawley and Blythe facilities
- Failure to know if the wastes stored at the Brawley and Chico facilities were hazardous
- Keeping open containers of hazardous waste at the Brawley and Blythe facilities
- Keeping open containers of hazardous waste stacked on top of one another at the Brawley facility
- Improper labeling of containers of hazardous waste at the Blythe facility

Helena Chemical is a Delaware-based company. Although the violations stated above have been corrected by Helena Chemical, DTSC is not limited from taking appropriate enforcement actions against the company for any future violations at these facilities. The settlement does not address any of Helena's other California facilities.

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**The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.**

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*"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)."*